

# Cloud Key

Identifying clouds is a terrific way for students to put their skills of observation and classification to work, as well as to launch them into weather prediction. Clouds are only one of the many factors—including fronts, winds, pressure systems, etc.—that contribute to predicting weather, but they are one that students can easily observe. Note: Identifying clouds can be difficult at first. Encourage students to make their best guesses based on the dominant kind of clouds they see, or to list more than one type.

## Directions

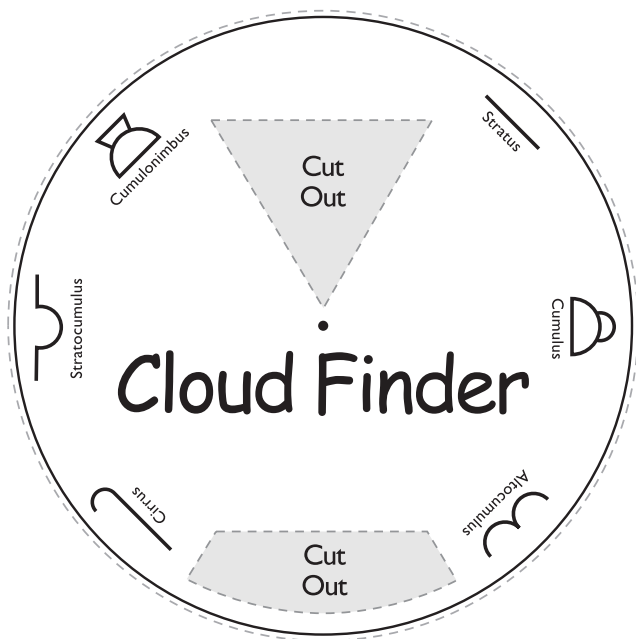
- 1 Make a copy of the reproducible for each student. Show students how to make the Cloud Key by cutting out both circles on pages 45 and 46, cutting out and discarding the two shaded areas on page 45, and fastening the wheels together. Page 45 goes on top.
- 2 Show students how to use the key. Move the wheel until the cloud you want appears, then read the name and weather information in the box.
- 3 Have students make a chart with these five headings: "Date/Time," "Cloud Type," "A.M. Weather," "P.M. Predicted Weather," "Actual P.M. Weather/Time." (See the sample shown here.) Invite students to fill in the chart every morning for a week, comparing their predictions to the actual weather in the afternoon.

## Materials

**(for each student)**

reproducible pages  
45 and 46

**brass paper fastener**  
**scissors**

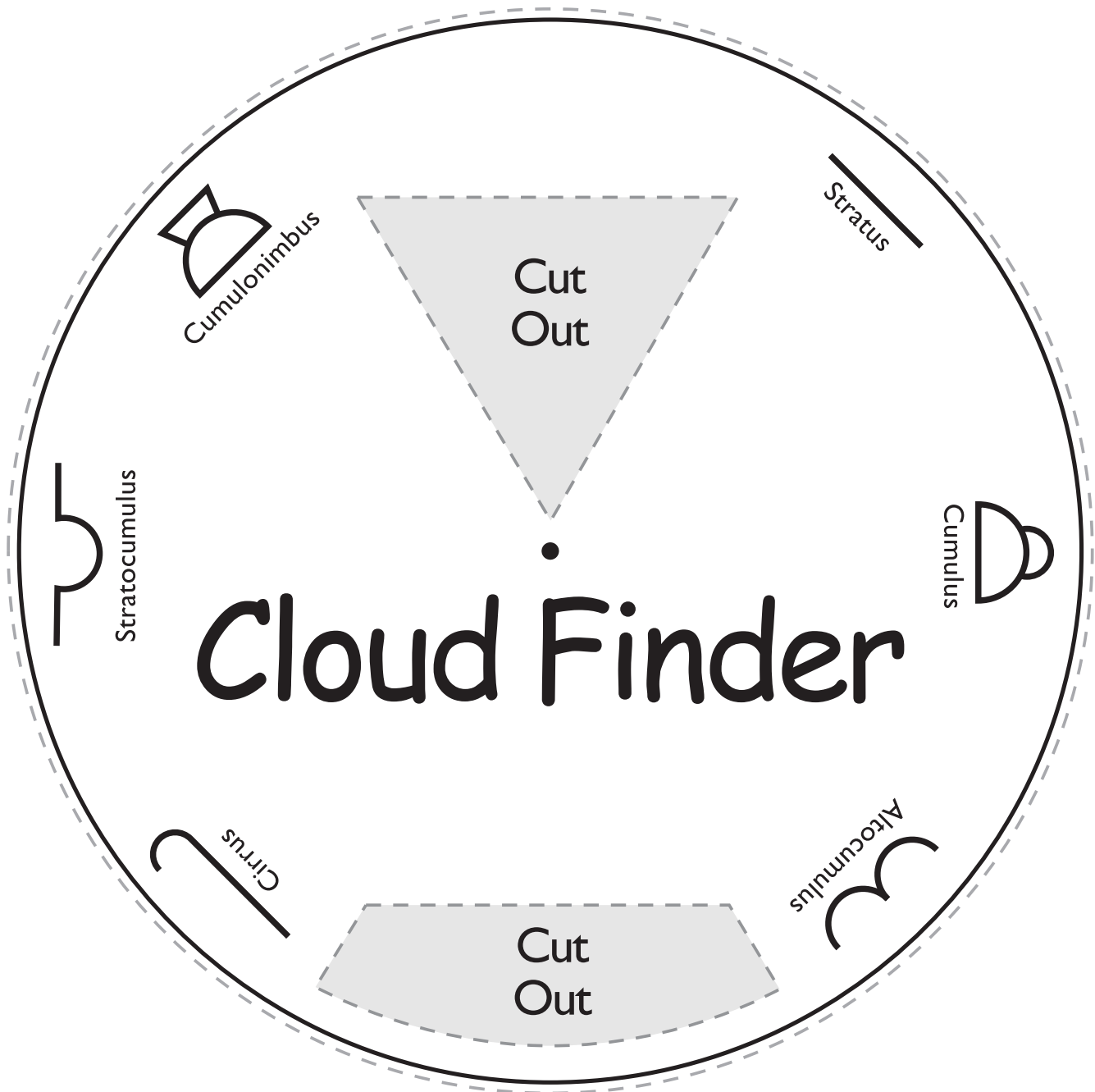
[illegible]

# Cloud Key

Cut out the wheel.

Cut out the two shaded areas inside the wheel.

This is the top wheel of your cloud key.



# Cloud Finder

